



# Wyoming Economic Update

January 28, 2016

## Summary

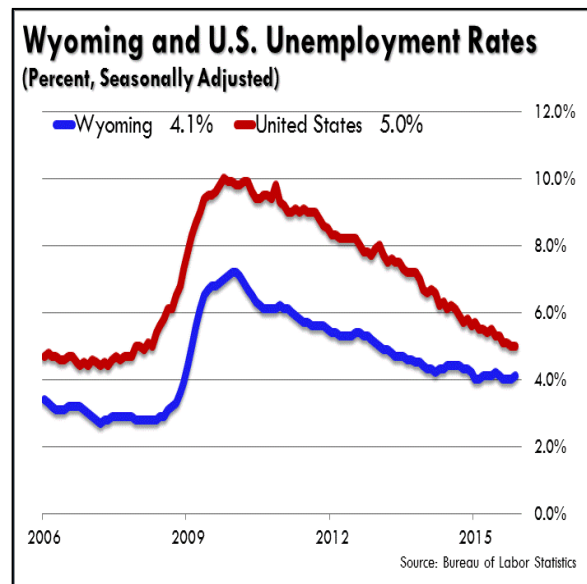
Nonfarm payroll employment in Wyoming decreased by 2,800 jobs and the unemployment rate increased to 4.3 percent in December according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

## Wyoming Unemployment Rate

During December, the unemployment rate in Wyoming increased to 4.3 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed decreased by 400 in December to 13,100, while the labor force decreased by 2,500 to 304,500.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 7.2 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Wyoming occurred in December 1986 when the unemployment rate reached 9.4 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Wyoming was 2.7 percent in March 2007. The series low for the unemployment rate in Wyoming occurred in July 1999 when the unemployment rate reached 3 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.0 percent in December. December's unemployment rate was 0.6 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2006.



## Wyoming Payroll Employment

Wyoming nonfarm payrolls decreased by 2,800 jobs, or -0.6 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during December. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls decreased by 1,700. Over the past 12 months nonfarm payrolls in Wyoming decreased by 6,400, or -2.17 percent. Wyoming nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 4 of the past 12 months.

Nationally nonfarm payrolls rose by 292,000 in December, or 0.21 percent. Over the 12-month period ending in December 2015 nonfarm payrolls have increased by 2,650,000 jobs, or 1.9 percent.

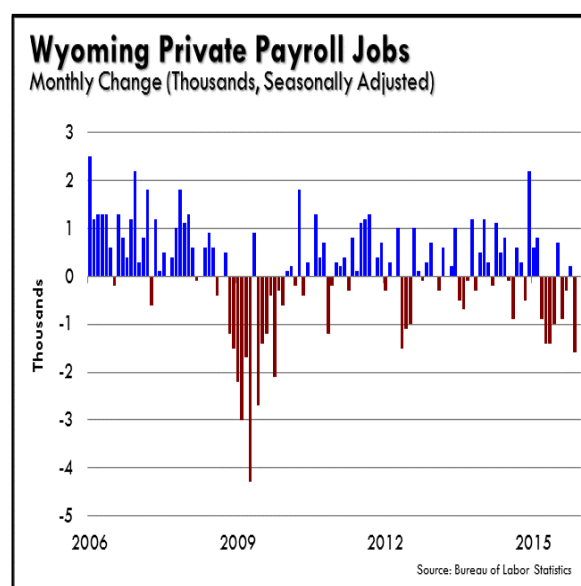
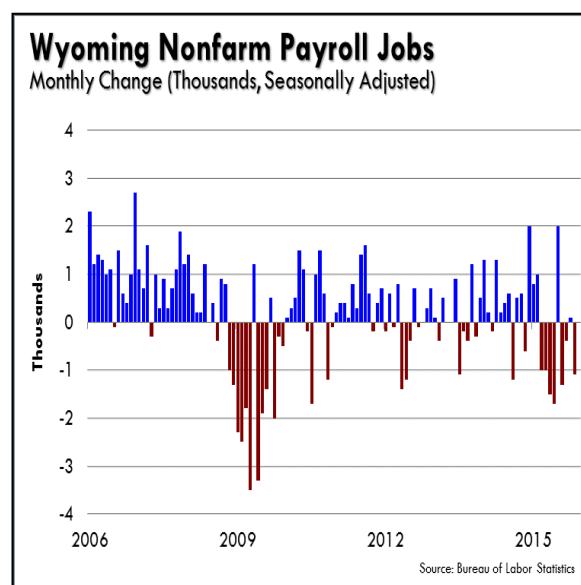
During December, Wyoming private-sector payrolls decreased by 1,900, or -0.87 percent. Private-sector payrolls decreased by 2,000 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Wyoming decreased by 8,100, or -3.61 percent. Wyoming private-sector payroll employment has increased in 1 of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 275,000 in December, or 0.23 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,551,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 2.1 percent.

During December, total government payroll employment in Wyoming increased by 200, or 0.28 percent. Federal government payroll employment increased by 100, or 1.37 percent. State government payroll employment remained unchanged, while local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.2 percent.

Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 900, or 1.26 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 200, or 1.3 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 700, or 1.44 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during December were Professional and Business Services (+200) and Information (+0). The poorest performing



sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-600) and Financial Activities (-200).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Education and Health Services (+500) and Financial Activities (+400). The poorest performing sectors for the year were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,700) and Leisure and Hospitality (-400).

### Other Wyoming Labor Force Statistics

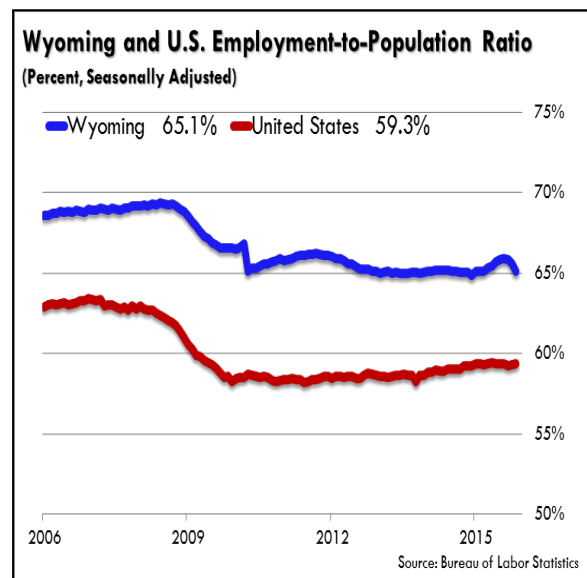
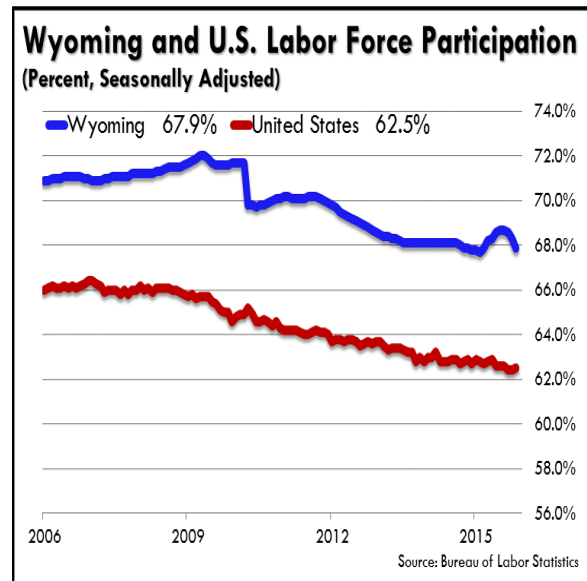
The labor force participation rate in Wyoming increased to 68 percent in December. The labor force participation rate in Wyoming is 0.4 percent lower than a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Wyoming was 70.9 percent in February 2007. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Wyoming occurred in October 1997, when the labor force participation rate hit 74.8 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 67.4 percent in September 2015.

The national labor force participation rate increased to 62.6 percent in December. That rate was 0.1 percentage point lower than a year earlier. At 62.6 percent, the labor force participation rate remains near its post-recession low.

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Wyoming civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, decreased by 0.6 percent in December.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wyoming was 69.3 percent in June 2008. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Wyoming occurred in June 2008 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 69.3 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.5 percent in December 2015. The



series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in January 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 61.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio rose by 0.1 percentage point to 59.5 percent in December. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier, and 0.1 percentage point higher than it was when the recession ended in June 2009. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 percent in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for January is scheduled for release on March 14<sup>th</sup>. The national employment situation report for January will be released on Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.